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CIIS *today*

The Magazine of California Institute of Integral Studies

Spring 2014

GROUND ED IN COMMUNITY

CIIS Renovations in Step With Changing Landscape

JAMES HORMEL'S PASSION FOR HUMANITY

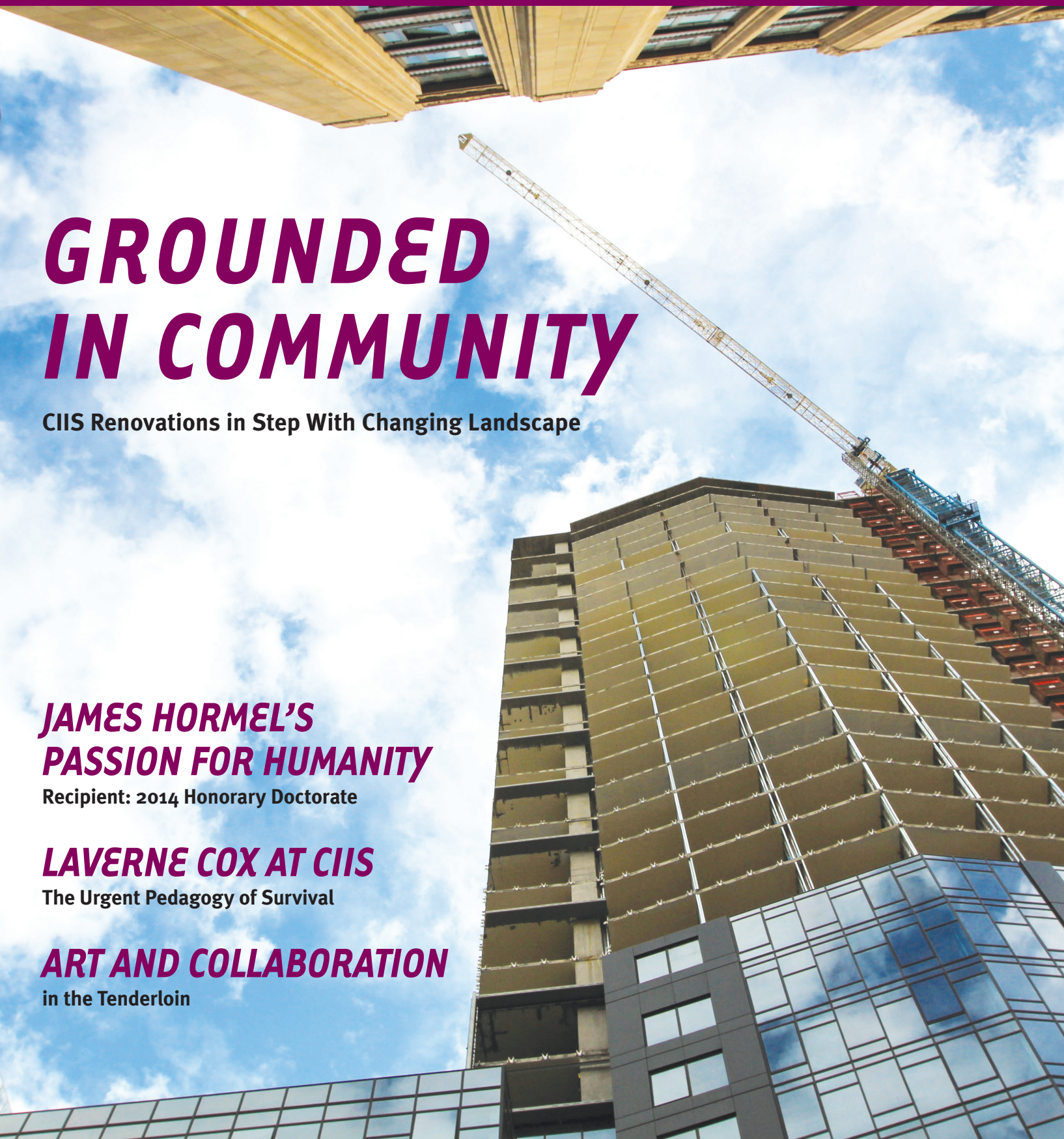
Recipient: 2014 Honorary Doctorate

LAVERNE COX AT CIIS

The Urgent Pedagogy of Survival

ART AND COLLABORATION

in the Tenderloin





Dear CIIS Alums and Friends

As you read through this issue, you will see a common theme related to CIIS's growing engagement within a community that is expanding into a unique urban center.

Since its founding, CIIS has been committed to serving disenfranchised communities through its programs and activities, such as its six counseling centers and its education of those at the leading edge of social justice. This commitment will always be a part of CIIS.

With the extraordinary growth of the high-tech community in San Francisco, particularly in our new South of Market (SOMA) neighborhood, we have a rare opportunity to bridge the divide between the corporate and the underserved communities. An excellent example of how this can be achieved is the recent hackathon, where CIIS faculty worked with high-tech developers to create apps that could address the mental health issues of those who commit gun violence.

What is happening in our neighborhood is a historic transformation, the likes of which have not happened since the Gold Rush of 1849. In the center of this whirling transformation is 1453 Mission Street. CIIS plans to be the convener of the conversation among its many neighbors—a conversation that at times may be difficult but will enhance the quality of life for all of its participants. To convene this dialogue, CIIS needs to renovate its first floor so that it can be the hub for our neighbors to gather in our newly designed SOMA lobby and sixth-floor community space.

I am focused on this project because it will not only advance the founding mission and enduring relevance of CIIS but also ensure the University's sustainability. The growth in our neighborhood, as you will read in *CIIS Today*, is not without pressing issues. CIIS is prepared to negotiate the many complexities that must be resolved. All we need now is the space for the conversation to take place.

Joseph L. Subbiondo
President

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California Institute of Integral Studies

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JAMES HORMEL:

A PASSION FOR HUMANITY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

Recipient of 2014 Honorary Doctorate

by Charles Wilmoth

Being chauffeured in a limousine to Sumner Elementary School in the small town of Austin, Minnesota, James Catherwood Hormel knew he was different. James was the youngest of three sons, all heirs to the Geo. A. Hormel & Co. meatpacking business, famous for its SPAM product that became wildly popular during World War II.

His family's fortune and elevated position in small-town Austin was not to be the only thing that caused James to feel different. Indeed, his struggle to integrate his gayness in the face of an inhospitable world would mark all of his life, most acutely so between adolescence and early adulthood.

James, as he prefers to be called, was sent to the Asheville School for Boys in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. It was there that he encountered the hatefulness of racism.

As he writes in his recent autobiography, *Fit to Serve: Reflections on a Secret Life, Private Struggle, and Public Battle to Become the First Openly Gay U.S. Ambassador*, the patrician boarding school and the social world of Asheville and the South stirred something deep within him: "Something about that society was inconsistent with justice and fairness." This is also where James' sexual longings came to life, and, as he writes, "I began to wonder if there was something wrong with me."

SETTLING INTO PHILANTHROPY

James would push himself to adopt a conventional life, attending Swarthmore College and then the University of Chicago Law School, where he was subsequently Assistant Dean and Dean of Students. He married a young woman he met at Swarthmore, with whom he had five children. But the marriage ended after 10 years in 1965, as James' wrestle with his secretive sexuality created insoluble barriers in the relationship. He moved from Chicago to New York, and then Hawaii, before settling in San Francisco in the late '70s.

Not everyone who inherits or acquires great wealth emerges as a notable philanthropist and civic leader. But those roles do

attach to James Hormel as he has lived his life in San Francisco.

Ray Mulliner, James' right-hand man for managing his investments and philanthropy, describes his boss as an "earnest" man who has a "passion for humanity and the human condition"—someone invariably moved by the suffering of others who sincerely wants to make things better for those who struggle in an unjust world.

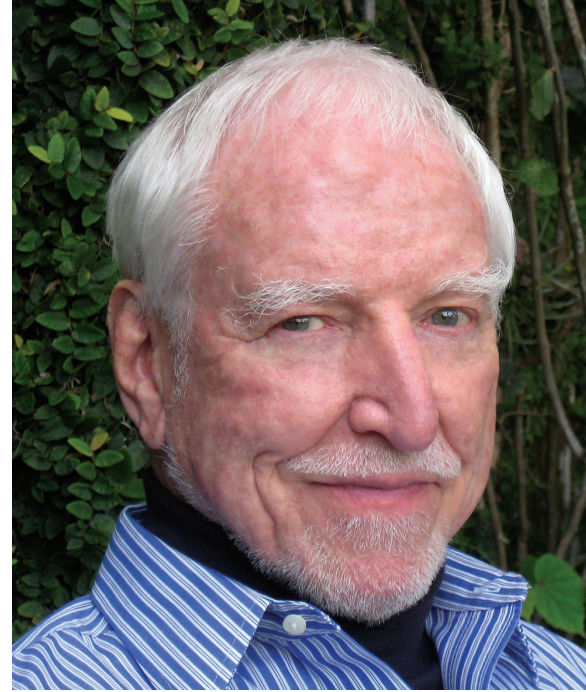
James' good and generous deeds are legion. For decades he has been instrumental in developing resources for organizations serving people affected by HIV and AIDS, substance abuse, and breast cancer. He was a member of the board of directors of the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and a founding director of the City Club of San Francisco, a club created to bring together community leaders of diverse backgrounds.

He also established the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center (the Center) at the San Francisco Public Library. The Center is the gateway to collections documenting LGBT history and culture, with a special emphasis on the San Francisco Bay Area.

IN SERVICE OF EDUCATION

Higher education figures prominently in James Hormel's philanthropy and personal service. When LGBT activists were advising donors to stop contributing to their alma maters because those schools weren't doing anything for the LGBT community, James took a different tack. He decided that giving to the University of Chicago and Swarthmore as an out gay man and donor had much more potential to influence policies for LGBT students and staff in higher education institutions than withdrawal.

For more than 25 years, James has been a member of the Board of Managers at Swarthmore, where he established a faculty chair in social justice. At the University of Chicago Law School, where he is a life member of (continued on page 26)



GROUNDING IN COMMUNITY:

CIIS Renovations in Step With Changing Landscape

by Lisa Denenmark

*T*ransformation is a big term used at 1453 Mission Street.

Heard in the hallways and in the classroom, it's part of the formal name of an MA and PhD program, a school, and countless panels, conferences, courses, and dissertation titles. At CIIS, transformations have mostly been of the nonmaterial, psychospiritual, social justice kinds—not anything you could run your fingers through, or sit on.

But now, 46-year-old CIIS finds itself barely a street below one of the city's most important transit corridors—a place of unprecedented growth in high-tech jobs and new housing. The University, keeping pace, is ready to roll out its blueprint for the future.

"CIIS wishes to serve our evolving neighborhood by contributing to creating and sustaining a healthy, vibrant, and diverse community," says President Joseph L. Subbiondo. "We welcome the new organizations, both profit and nonprofit; and we will collaborate with them in meeting our responsibilities and commitments to community engagement. We plan to convene the conversation at CIIS."

MID-MARKET AND MIDDLE AGE

Since 1999, CIIS's street presence has been cosmetically and nondescriptly languishing at 1453 Mission Street, where one could, and often would, as the song goes, "just walk on by."

"It's so easy to miss us," says Keith Cich, Board Chair and Treasurer. "It's like we're the best-kept secret on Mission Street. When we bought the building in 2007, there was little interaction with the neighborhood," he says. "Now the world has changed around us. We want to open up CIIS to the neighborhood and introduce it as a place with a lot to offer."

The renovation is part of the vision for CIIS 2020, with the aim to renovate the entire building so that it reflects the University's maturity and relevance as a forward-thinking place of innovation.

REENVISIONING 1453 MISSION STREET

With the launch of the new Laurance S. Rockefeller Library in 2012, a project that raised more than \$750,000 in gifts, the University embarked on a full-court transformational press



to realize its next capital project: the renovation of the building's first floor.

Architects Cheryl Lentini and Helen Bronstein, in collaboration with CIIS board members, and the Facilities and Operations department, have designed the space so that the visitor's experience—or a passerby's first impression—of CIIS is one of invitation, interaction, and engagement.

Over the next three years, CIIS is taking a two-phased approach to the remodeling. In Phase 1, the first-floor lobby entrance will be redesigned and enlarged to seven times its current size, adding 2,000 square feet. A bustling café will be created, along with rental space for two tenants.

Cost: \$1.5 million

KINDLE, NOOK, INNERLIGHT

The new café, which will have a fully functional kitchen, will be another source of revenue for the University and a community gathering space. And just steps away, further augmenting the first-floor experience and likely attracting tablet-toting customers, is CIIS's InnerLight Bookstore. There, browsers and book buyers will be able to listen to readings by University faculty and students.

Deirdre Visser, curator of The Arts at CIIS, is also working closely with the remodeling team to integrate a contemporary gallery space into the lobby area that will showcase artists' work and be a home for poetry slams and readings.

"Speaking for both The Arts at CIIS and our growing MFA program, we are thrilled to have street-level visibility for our programming," says Visser. "It allows us to both heighten public exposure for the emerging and diverse artists we work with and invite a broad public into the school to engage with the CIIS community in dialogue about ideas and issues that challenge and sometimes divide us."

To the right of the visitor lobby will be a secure entrance for students, staff, and faculty, enhanced by a "living wall" of natural plants behind it that will create a ground-floor oasis for CIIS community members.



(Above) Late-night construction across from 1453 Mission St.

(Facing page) CIIS (middle right) holds its ground as high-rises spring up around it.

New kiosks will hold book displays and showcase the University's promotional and informational material. A multigendered bathroom will also be added.

"The architectural design provides another point of intersection by revealing the building's historical armature and high ceilings while carrying its history forward with a modern storefront that connects the building's design with its more modern neighbors," says Jonathan Mills (EWP '09), Director of Facilities and Operations.

"The new storefront with windows that stretch to 17 feet from the floor will give the first floor an airy and expansive feeling, which in combination with wall treatments made from locally sourced reclaimed wood and a vertical garden feature will also

(continued on page 24)



Elliot Owen

LAVERNE COX

and the

URGENT PEDAGOGY OF SURVIVAL

by Keiko Lane (SOM '02)

We were on our feet long before Laverne Cox walked onto the stage. Karim Baer, Director of Public Programs & Performances, introduced the evening, shouting out the LGBTQI organizations that helped with the event. He told us who was in the theater with us, and who had *tried* to be in the theater with us: an activist in London who had heard about the event and raised funds to ensure

Then we quieted long enough for him to introduce Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and the first trans woman named “Woman of the Year” by the California State Assembly.

“We need to change the public’s perception of how they see us and who we are,” said Sparks. “Media is the most powerful way to do this. We need strong voices, courageous spokespeople—and

“As a university, one of the things that we want to do is use arts and ideas to promote change,” Baer continued. “We wanted to honor Laverne, and what better way to celebrate Women’s History Month than by hosting Laverne Cox.”

The audience of 1,200 cheered.

stomped and clapped, refusing to sit down. Cox walked toward the edge of the stage and took in our excitement.

“Thank, you. Thank you,” she said, as we finally settled down. Cox looked out into the audience and immediately greeted two heroes in the house: Cecilia Chung, Senior Strategist at Transgender Law Center and San Francisco Health Commissioner, who was just named the 2014 “Woman of the Year” by the California Legislature, and Miss Major, a veteran of more than 40 years of community organizing and service, now the Executive Director of the Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project (TGI Justice).

Miss Major, who is an elder to many community members, took part in the Stonewall Uprising and became politicized while incarcerated in Attica prison. Cox said that without trans women like Miss Major, she would not be standing in front of us. Tears welled in Cox’s eyes and all of ours.

INTERSECTING OPPRESSIONS

Cox told us her life story: her relationship with her twin brother and their single mother, her experience of intersecting oppressions as African American, working class, and gender nonconforming. She talked about how as a young person she internalized the pervasive transphobia and racism in the culture around her, which led to her despair and suicidality. Fighting to create a life as a writer, actor, and dancer unfolded into an acceptance of herself—and fueled her fierce insistence on survival.

“What we hope for is an academia that holds in its heart the belief that a pursuit of a just world is not in conflict with deep inquiry.”

that young trans people who might not otherwise be able to attend, could, and two trans activists from Sudan who couldn’t get visas. “We’ll get them here next time,” Baer promised.

we need them to be visible. Laverne Cox is one of those individuals emerging as our face, our voice, and our very integrity.”

Cox stepped onto the stage to a standing ovation. As she and Sparks hugged, we

Cries of assent and “Amen, sister!” were shouted so loudly from the balcony that often we couldn’t hear Cox. And maybe that was the point of the night: an African American transgender woman standing onstage at the Nourse Theater talking to a full house, asserting the agency and necessary survival of women, of people of color, of transgender people. Of all of us. Maybe invoking this overwhelming roar to drown out or join her voice was *exactly* the point.

As Cox preached to the full theater, my queer activist friends and I looked at one another, our eyes wide. This would not be one of the talks we’d heard from Hollywood celebrities about their adopted social justice causes, and it would not be the talks we’re used to from academics.

This is what it was like to hear Audre Lorde, to listen to Pat Parker, to Marlon Riggs and Dorothy Allison and Essex Hemphill. Cox invoked Cornel West’s words that had been a refrain when CIIS hosted an evening with him in 2010:

Justice is what love looks like in public.

DESPITE THE DANGER

All evening we’d been primed for this excitement. People had begun showing up two hours early looking for tickets. Tables in the lobby were piled high with information about health and legal services, legislation, and upcoming events, staffed by CIIS community partners Causa Justa, the San Francisco LGBT Center, Transgender Law Center, and TGI Justice.

I watched as old friends greeted one another and new friends were made.

Joël Barraquiel Tan, Director of Community Engagement at Yerba Buena Arts Center, later wrote that the auditorium was packed with

all ages of not mostly white people, artists and nonprofit workers, drag queens from the Stonewall Uprising, trans ladies in perfumed packs, a



Q&A with Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs and Laverne Cox.

new generation of Radical Faeries, retired Queer Nationals, tuxedoed ACT UPpers, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, adjunct professors, and Cockettes. There were at least three queer generations of Pride in the house.

Cox told the story of Islan Nettles, a trans woman in New York who was beaten into a coma when a group of men realized she was trans. Nettles died a few days after the attack. Violence is physical, verbal, psychological. “I’ve come to believe that calling a transgender woman a man is an act of violence,” Cox said. She believes that it is her obligation to use the cultural attention surrounding her to publically witness and remember those whose stories might otherwise be forgotten.

And she told the story of CeCe McDonald, a trans woman in Minnesota who survived a violent attack for which she served time in a men’s prison after the district attorney refused to allow a self-defense plea. Cox, who currently plays an incarcerated trans woman on Netflix’s hit show “Orange is the New Black,” is making a documentary film about McDonald and the epidemic of violence toward trans women of color.

As Cox asserted her responsibility to use her access in spite of any danger that her visibility brings her, I thought of Audre Lorde saying, “When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the

service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”

This may be the fabulous subversive paradox of the popularity of Laverne Cox: She is given a platform by the dominant culture because she is gorgeous, glamorous, and a successful actress. But the platform on which she stands is that of a fierce thinker, political strategist, and heart-driven intellectual.

“I was bullied and called names, too. And now I’m a big TV star.”

In a recent BuzzFeed interview, Cox said, “The system isn’t really set up to have these conversations about intersectionality and social justice when you’re an actress. I always feel like someone is going to come along and say, ‘OK, this has gone on for too long. We need to get rid of this girl.’”

Cox talked about moving more deeply into an articulated contextual understanding of her identity, and of that identity in the world, while in college reading Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler (Judy B., as Cox called her throughout the night), bell hooks, and Sojourner Truth, whose “Ain’t I a Woman?” (*continued on page 25*)

Expressive Arts Weaves Into Contra Costa's Safety Net:

Partnership Unites Health Care Services and Expressive Arts Therapy



(From left) Patricia Rojas-Zambrano, Ruth Davis-Fyer, Jen Alt, Karen Lloyd, Adrian Scharfetter.

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) is a public safety net: a behemoth public organization whose facilities support more than 640,000 visits annually for medical and behavioral health services—the largest department of Contra Costa County government and one of its largest employers.

A “safety net” hospital or health system maintains an open door, offering patients access to services regardless of their ability to pay, insurance status, or health condition.

By legal mandate or adopted mission, it is committed to providing a substantial level of care to the most vulnerable populations, including low-income, uninsured, and Medicaid-dependent.

As the literature says, “CCHS seeks to reduce health disparities by addressing issues of diversity, and linguistic and cultural competence, and encouraging creative, ethical and tenacious leadership to implement effective health policies and programs.”

One such tenacious leader is Dr. Alan Siegel, a family physician based at the West County Health Center in San Pablo. Siegel, a musician, is a passionate believer in the healing potential of the arts.

Siegel, who is also the director of Nor Cal Arts & Health Alliance, has been chairing the development of the county’s Art of Health and Healing (AHH) initiative to ensure that patients, their families, staff, and community have the opportunity to reap the benefits

offered by the use of arts practices in health care.

THE HEALING ARTS IN COMMUNITY

Feeling that medicine had become too sterile, Siegel sought ways to reincorporate spirituality and add arts into healing—to use the full spectrum of therapeutic tools available for clinicians to treat, engage with, and heal patients.

Conferences, consultations, and field research led him to expressive arts and, in fall 2012, to Shoshana Simons, Expressive Arts Therapy Program (EXA) Chair at CIIS. Siegel wanted to collaborate on a strategy for providing expressive arts therapy services throughout the county.

Simons saw the partnership between CIIS and the AHH program at CCHS as “a unique opportunity to align our human, material, and creative resources in service of the needs of both communities.”

Siegel agreed with Simons, saying, “Building our partnership between a school and a public institution and being able to provide something that works for both groups is exciting.”

In a collaboration between the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC), a 164-bed facility in Martinez, and EXA, a paid practicum and graduate internship was created. Faculty member Phil Weglarz, a hospital-based expressive arts therapist and supervisor, was instrumental in implementing the partnership.

BY THE BEDSIDE AND BEYOND

The year 2013 welcomed the first cohort of interns: EXA graduates Ruth Davis-Fyer, Krishna Munoz Harrison, and Saskia Pouw. They work at patients’ bedsides on medical units, provide groups and milieu therapy in inpatient psychiatry and the psychiatric emergency room, and facilitate expressive arts in outpatient medical groups. Some of the modalities they’re using are music and singing, writing and poetry, visual arts, and guided imagery.

“They are gaining paid hours toward licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists and REATs while serving the needs of

patients and staff who are living and working in richly diverse, economically impoverished, and underresourced communities in Contra Costa County,” says Simons.

Early in 2014, the team expanded to include EXA graduates Jen Alt, Adrian Scharfetter, and practicum student Lori Tuttle. Additionally, EXA alums Suraya Keating and Patricia Rojas-Zambrano were hired as part-time supervisors.

“Whether it be the charge nurse in intensive care, labor and delivery staff, resident preceptors, or upper administration, they all see the added value of expressive arts in the healing process,” says Rojas-Zambrano. “Next, we’re focusing on staff—caring for the caregivers.”

Tuttle particularly loves working with pregnant women, new mothers having difficulty bonding with their babies, and mothers in recovery. “I find that writing poetry invites people to talk about their feelings in a safe way, a way to share their inner, often hidden feelings,” she says. “Writing poetry assists the client in externalizing their feelings, to write them down and get them out of the body. Using the expressive arts is a doorway, a way to invite the deeper self into the conversation.”

EXPANDING EXA’S REACH

The AHH partnership fosters opportunities for cross-fertilization with other allopathic and artistic healers. The team has created and participated in several community rituals and unit-wide celebrations for patients, family, and staff, including art receptions, and the annual Healthcare Workers as Creators multiarts festival. There’s also a booth at the CCRMC Tuesday Farmers Market, where the public can engage in individual and communal expressive arts activities.

Additionally, the program provides staff in-services and education about the potential of expressive arts therapy.

“In the future,” says Simons, “we hope to create an Arts in Healthcare Certificate Program that will train interested health care workers in how to implement arts-based activities with patients while also being trained in systemwide arts-based action inquiry as a means of sustaining the health and well-being of the community as a whole.”

Siegel believes that now is a great time for growth. “Moving forward, I would like to expand our work to have more effect on the masses,” he says. “This is a very large county health system. I want to expand our EXA work and conduct research at our site. I want to extend our reach—to offer Expressive Arts certificates to staff. The interest is huge.”

Siegel adds, “In a large system like CCH there is so much need and so much opportunity. If we had 100 interns, we could keep all of them busy.” ●

What Is Expressive Arts Therapy?

Expressive arts therapy refers to a therapeutic approach with individuals, couples, families, groups, and community-based programs that integrates a wide range of arts modalities in the service of human growth, development, and healing. It takes a multi-arts or multimodal approach, integrating painting, drawing, sculpture, dance/movement, music, drama, ritual, poetry, and prose within therapeutic encounters.

The expressive arts become the medium through which clients can explore and potentially transform emotional, social, spiritual, and relational issues; identify strengths; and experience new creative insights.

PHIL WEGLARZ, MA, MFT, REAT (EXA '05)

As a graduate of the Expressive Arts Therapy program, I know firsthand the challenge of finding meaningful postgraduate work within one’s specialty. When I was invited to teach in the EXA department in 2012, I committed to advocating for finding or creating opportunities for CIIS graduates and new professionals.

The EXA department’s community partnerships with service organizations respond to both the changes in the profession and the needs of students, recent graduates, and the people we serve. Drawing on my experience as an expressive arts therapist in hospital settings, working with children and adults with complex medical problems, I helped design, facilitate, and supervise a graduate internship program and paid practicum for EXA students in partnership with CCHS.



Through its Healing Through the Arts program, we are introducing and exploring ways to add expressive arts therapy to various county health services that largely serve disenfranchised populations.



HACKATHON FOR MENTAL HEALTH

The symposium, a partnership between CIIS and Highground Hackers, brought together experts from multiple backgrounds to explore broad public solutions to the rising tide of violence facing our country.

Boston, Integral Counseling Psychology Professor Mark Fromm, and CIIS Board of Trustees member Ashoka Narasimhan.

Highground Hackers is a group of civic-minded developers, technology executives, entrepreneurs, and investors who connect engineers and developers with nontechnical experts from various fields of public concern.

The Symposium followed the Hackathon for Mental Health (HMH), held Nov. 16–17, 2013, which was geared toward building creative tools for improving mental health and reducing gun violence.

A hackathon is an event, typically lasting between a day and a week, where computer engineers, software developers, graphic designers, user experience designers, and project managers gather to work in a dedicated and intensive manner on a project or specific set of goals.

Among the programs created at HMH is Concrn, an app that builds a framework for local governments to use in establishing compassionate care services. In total, 12 projects were completed and presented at HMH.

“These events have created a rare opportunity for high-tech developers, San Francisco, and CIIS to meaningfully collaborate on unique projects that will contribute significantly to the safety of our community,” Subbiondo said. “I am confident that our partnership and the research that results from working so closely together will serve as a model for the nation.”

by Neil Freese

Meg Jordan surveyed the room as she spoke and saw not a sea of faces but row upon row of heads buried in laptops. She was presenting to a group of technologists at Geekdom, a collaborative workspace in San Francisco, as part of the Symposium for Sandy Hook, on Dec. 14, 2013—one year after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

“It was like landing on a distant shore as an anthropologist—a bit jaw-dropping,” said Jordan, Department Chair of Integrative Health Studies and Somatic Psychology at California Institute of Integral Studies.

The technologists, heads down, pounded their keyboards as Jordan spoke about human flourishing, an integral model of health that hinges on in-depth self-reflection and the implementation of daily life practices such as conscious consumption, earth stewardship, physical exercise, whole nutrition, yoga therapy, and meditation to achieve expanded awareness.

Despite her reservations, Jordan was thrilled to join together with experts from the world of technology to discuss the intersection of tech and mental health. “We had fertile discussions whereby I could peek into their process,” she said. “They were sincerely committed to crossing this digital divide and producing thoughtful, creative, useful products or tech services that reduced the likelihood of another Sandy Hook or senseless shootings.”

THE THERAPISTS SPEAK

Jordan was joined by Craig Chalquist, Chair of the East-West Psychology program, who spoke about his experiences offering therapy to men with backgrounds of violence and offered critical insights into the cycle of crime. Richard Buggs, Dean of Alumni at CIIS, profiled the mind of a perpetrator in the hopes of identifying those in need of help.

CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, District Attorney George Gascón, and venture capitalist Ron Conway also spoke at the Symposium. Other presenters from CIIS included Expressive Arts Therapy Professor Denise



A BIGGER PICTURE WITH TECH

As a school of professional psychology and a university located in the heart of San Francisco, CIIS is looking at the bigger picture of how technology can help people not just in one-on-one therapy but on a grander scale as well. By playing a key role in the Hackathon and the Symposium, CIIS has established itself as a leading resource for issues relating to mental health.

“We have unique degree programs that prepare leaders to improve outreach and access of mental health services,” said Jordan. “We have grants to bring wellness services to underserved neighborhoods. When you educate through a whole-person approach, you make a difference in the world. The CIIS model is of utmost importance if we’re going to see a change in this urgent issue.”

Phil Weglarz, faculty in the Expressive Arts Therapy program, says that good behaviors based on healthy social and emotional learning can, in fact, be learned and achieved through

practice. He believes that this is why it’s important that CIIS play an active role in contributing to the development of technology aimed at addressing mental health issues.

“This is an opportunity to think outside of the box and explore ways we can use social media and other online tools to reach more and more people,” Weglarz said. “Therapists are far outnumbered by the amount of negative influences that are on our youth today.”

CIIS and Highground Hackers are committed to continuing their collaborative relationship. They’re planning a three-month research project that incorporates important lessons learned from the Symposium and HMM.

Over the coming months, Jordan and ICP’s Mark Fromm will work with student teams to explore the root causes of gun violence and then

propose working hypotheses to stem it. They will present their research and hypotheses to design teams organized by Highground Hackers and also support designers in the creation of an app designed to reduce gun violence.

“The CIIS model is of utmost importance if we’re going to see a change in this urgent issue.”

“I was impressed with the way we all came together, confronting the frustrations and despair over escalating gun violence in this country, and wove our own crazy quilt of interprofessional solutions,” Jordan said. “It’s heart-warming just to know that CIIS has teamed up with the brightest minds in tech, and we both want to restore sanity, safety, and peace.” ●



MAKING ART, BUILDING COMMUNITY *in the Tenderloin*

by Deirdre Visser

Skywatchers had its genesis in Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers' (ABD) year of guerrilla art, 50 Random Acts of Dance (RAD). Each week arriving in a different space in San Francisco—crosswalks and sidewalks, city parks, BART and Muni stations, the steps of the Old Mint, or the Embarcadero—ABD dancers, boom box in hand, arrived, danced, and left. Offered for free and without promotion, the dances were performed with the intention to infuse daily life with art, rather than leaving it to the rarefied environment of theaters.

In 2011, fresh from the year of dancing in public spaces, with a growing interest in developing relationships with a few sites rather than dancing in spaces with which company members had no history, Bluethenthal was drawn to the Tenderloin National Forest (the Forest), a community garden and one of few open spaces in the high-density urban neighborhood.

Bluethenthal, core faculty in the MFA programs and co-founder of the new Center for the Arts and Social Justice at CIIS, quickly

realized that instead of bringing her ensemble of dancers into the Forest, she was more interested in developing a relationship with the community that lives adjacent to and uses the unique garden setting.

“So instead of bringing my dancers to the space, I brought myself there regularly—hanging out and getting to know residents and the people who came through,” she says. “And also getting to know Community Housing Partnership.”

Community Housing Partnership (CHP), which operates the Senator Hotel adjacent to the Forest, as well as many other spaces for low-income Tenderloin residents, is the only San Francisco nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to providing permanent, supportive housing to formerly homeless individuals and families.

In time, by working first with CHP residents and then its staff, ABD realized that this organization was an ideal community partner for the creative project that was emerging.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

In the beginning, Bluethenthal met with individuals, talking about their lives, their stories, and their relationship with the Forest. The first person interviewed in that nascent process was Janice Detroit, who lived in the top-floor corner apartment. From that vantage point, Detroit—who describes herself as a “skywatcher”—looks out over all the people in the neighborhood, particularly the children. Her job, she says, is to take their tears away. Inspired by Detroit’s spirit and self-description, ABD adopted the project title, *Skywatchers*.

The performance that emerged from those interviews blended resident stories into a soundscape within which CIIS MFA student Nicole Klaymoon’s Embodiment Project dancers moved. Resident-participants and audience members also accompanied ABD collaborator Melanie DeMore’s “spontaneous choir.”

In the second year of *Skywatchers*, Bluethenthal’s growing relationship with community residents was paralleled by their deepening participation. When they saw that the piece was about them, about their lives, community residents took ownership of it and started to show up in the tenant lounge to share their stories and translate those narratives into movement.

In a community-based practice that begins with the artist creating a space for folks to show up and tell their stories, serendipity has a prominent role. Early in the second round of *Skywatchers*, Rennon, a Senator Hotel resident who typically positions himself a few yards outside the circle that forms Wednesday afternoons in the tenant lounge, handed Bluethenthal a stack of his writing, which included a poem called “Whereas,” about the right to “free sleep.” Sleep seems so essential and basic for most of us that it goes unquestioned, but for low-income and homeless community members, it’s a right too often denied by sit/lie laws, or simply the noise and lack of safety in the neighborhood.

The personal and collective stories that emerged from these dialogues about the intersections of sleep, community, rights, and privilege became the catalyst and centerpiece for the second performance, which was held in the Forest in fall 2013. Reflecting ABD’s deepening relationship with the community, 12 residents were active performers in this iteration, collaborating with professional artists on an evening program that transformed the Forest and traversed the neighborhood.

A GROWING ENSEMBLE OF PERFORMERS

To date, 40 community members and 14 professional artists



(Above) Tenderloin resident co-creators perform alongside local dancers.

(Facing page) June Johnson, Donel Fuller, and Bradley Edwards perform *Right to Free Sleep*.

have participated in the development and presentation of *Skywatchers*. With ABD entering the third round of the project and bringing in residents of a second and third housing complex, Bluethenthal is struck by the uniqueness of each iteration of the project. Now at the Cambridge Hotel, her Wednesday afternoon visits are more jam session than verbal storytelling session.

Sasha Silvaneau, ABD Director of Community Engagement, is also launching a project site with the youth living in the Arnett Watson Apartments, another CHP site in the Tenderloin. While the project slowly grows, Bluethenthal preserves its intimacy; Instead of moving to another location and leaving behind previous participants, she continues to engage residents in leadership capacities at the new sites, and brings old and new together in an ensemble of community artist-performers related through the creative process.

ABD has recently received two grants to fund *Skywatchers*: one from the Sam Mazza Foundation and the other from the San Francisco Arts Commission’s Arts & Communities: Innovative Partnerships program. The support will fund Silvaneau’s position as well as contribute to production costs.

At its most fundamental level, *Skywatchers* is about building relationships among neighbors, illuminating the lives and stories of community members who are too often reduced to statistical data, and exposing issues both personal and collective. While many programs send artists into underserved communities to provide art to residents, Bluethenthal’s approach is driven by the community members themselves: “The outsider—who is me—is just creating a space, and then taking what it is that happens in that space, and putting a microphone up to it, putting it out in the world in a way that is coherent and can be experienced both by those within and outside the community in a way that’s meaningful and memorable.” ●



Six Questions With Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award Honoree

LATA KRISHNAN

Lata Krishnan has been called “a leading light in the American Indian community,” most notably for her philanthropic work with American India Foundation (AIF), which she co-founded in 2001 to accelerate social and economic development in India. President Bill Clinton, the foundation’s visionary, currently serves as Honorary Chair.

Under Krishnan’s guidance, the foundation has invested more than \$84 million to ensure that some of the world’s most marginalized people have access to high-quality educational opportunities, and to improve maternal and child health, create sustainable livelihoods, aid disaster relief efforts, and shape the next generation of leaders.

In collaboration with her husband and children, Krishnan works to both envision and fund projects that advance human rights and education for women and girls, and find solutions to some of the world’s most persistent health crises.

She is committed to supporting disenfranchised communities by identifying and filling the gaps that others have not addressed so far—be they in San Jose, East Africa, or India.

Krishnan is widely recognized for her entrepreneurial skills, business acumen,

and leadership in Silicon Valley and beyond. She is the Chief Financial Officer of Shah Capital Partners, a leading midmarket technology private-equity fund that she joined upon its inception in 2003.

Born in Kerala, India, and partly raised in Kenya, Krishnan also lived in London before finally settling down in California. In 1989, she co-founded SMART Modular Technologies, a manufacturer of computer memory modules, and served as its CFO. Prior to founding SMART, Krishnan held various corporate accounting and finance positions with Montgomery Securities and Arthur Andersen & Company.

Krishnan earned a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors from the London School of Economics and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. She serves as a member of several boards, including the Silicon Valley Bank and The Commonwealth Club of California.

Where is your heart these days in philanthropy?

As a family we do more in the Bay Area than we do anywhere else, because we all feel very strongly that this is an amazing, magical place, which has afforded us so many privileges. We want very much to make a difference to this community.

We think of our philanthropic work as having three geographic areas of focus, one of which is the Bay Area. Another area is India, because both my husband and I are originally from there, although both of us spent most of our early years

in East Africa and the U.K. The third area is East Africa.

We feel that between the three, we have a good global presence. These are areas that we have a personal connection with and where we know people. So, we feel that these are great areas for us to spend time, effort, and resources on.

You’ve long been an advocate for education. What is the work that you and your family have been doing in the Bay Area?

One of the things we feel strongly about is that the Bay Area, clearly again, is a place of innovation, where new technologies, companies, and industries are set up. At the same time, sadly, education is flailing. One of the areas we focus on is to enable children who are academically able, but financially unable, to pursue higher education and give them an ability to progress.

Some of our work is with communities in East Palo Alto and San Jose, where we support two inspiring schools with incredible leadership. These schools are enabling kids who come from extremely marginalized families to get somewhere—to get an education, to find a job that is meaningful and feel like a productive citizen. I think those kids will set examples for their own communities.

As co-founder of AIF 13 years ago, how have you been able to collaborate locally in community and across hemispheres?

My role is just as a facilitator. At AIF we have a whole team of people in India and here who come from wonderful backgrounds and *(continued on page 27)*

Voices Coalesce at *Mali Fest*

by Karim Baer

The arts are such an important component of life. They give texture and feeling to even the most linear of academic disciplines. My favorite moment in a concert always comes about midway, when you can feel 1,000-plus audience members in a collective state of awe, appreciation, and beauty. Likewise, the arts give us an opportunity to share and bear witness to the pain and suffering of a people, make complex social strife a felt reality—and perhaps move us to take action.

Because musicians in Mali were specifically targeted during the fundamentalist insurgency of 2012, Public Programs & Performances wanted to give special attention to the rich music currently coming out of Mali. The series began in the fall with mesmerizing singer/songwriter **Rokia Traoré**, followed by the launch of our 2014 lineup with guitar virtuoso **Habib Koité**. In April our series culminated with Mali Fest Weekend, which paired rising star **Fatoumata Diawara** with the Grammy-winning group **Tinariwen**.

Each of these artists represents a different perspective of the lives and times of Malian people. Traoré is truly defining a new era of African rock-and-roll, interpreting new sounds for the Gretsch guitar and collaborating with artists Peter Sellars and Toni Morrison in a production of Shakespeare's *Desdemona*.

The lyrically lush Diawara, who opened Mali Fest Weekend, has a contemporary sound and a socially conscious voice that's



(From left) Fatoumata Diawara, Habib Koité.

also get-up-and-dance dynamic. Having fled Mali to avoid an arranged marriage, Diawara in many of her songs bears witness to the need for women's rights, protection of children, and the dire consequences of war.

On the second night, rebel rockers Tinariwen sang about their love for their nomadic homeland and the divisiveness of war.

CIIS continues to inspire learning through the arts—a truly important component of a CIIS integral education. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce Angélique Kidjo from Benin, West Africa, on June 21—for what will surely be a celebratory end to the 2013–2014 season.

Though we can't reveal the lineup quite yet, this fall

affords several great opportunities to catch and hold your breath watching a phenomenal performance onstage. ●

“The spirit of Mali is music”
—FATOUMATA DIAWARA

CIIS TRAVEL PREVIEW

The Splendors of China October 5–19, 2014

Join Steve Given, professor at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Richard Buggs, Dean of Alumni and Director of Travel Programs at CIIS, on this special adventure. Highlights include Beijing's Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven, the Great Wall, the terra cotta warriors of Xi'an, a giant panda breeding center, a behind-the-scenes visit to a traditional Chinese medicine hospital in Chengdu, and Shanghai's Bund quarter and jade Buddha.

For more information, visit: www.ciis.edu/alumni/travel or contact Richard Buggs at rbuggs@ciis.edu or 415.575.6116. ●



Leshan Giant Buddha

STUDENT PROFILE: ZOE BENDER

The Antidote to Competition and Individualism



by Neil Freese

Zoe Bender lives in the Mid-Market neighborhood of San Francisco, in the heart of a rapidly changing city that has been wracked by an identity crisis. In a part of town that for years had been impervious to waves of revitalization

efforts, tech companies have moved in and established headquarters in quick succession.

Tech workers pour into the neighborhood, luxury housing projects sprout up, and low-income residents have been forced ever closer to the margins as rents have risen sharply.

POOR Magazine, a grassroots arts organization based in the Mission District, where she has had the opportunity to help “shift the power dynamic in media making so that the people who are completely left out of the conversation get to tell their own stories.”

At *POOR Magazine*, Bender contributes in a variety of ways, from assisting with child care to co-authoring articles with people who lack formal education. “It’s a broad range of actual things that I’m doing, but the underlying idea is to show up and be helpful,” Bender says. “Sometimes that means doing the dishes, sometimes that means using my race and class privilege to advocate for people in courtrooms or for people in the eviction struggle.”

NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW AWARD

Because of her community engagement efforts in the fight against gentrification and eviction, Bender was recently chosen as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents. The fellowship is awarded to student leaders from across the country who are invested in finding solutions to problems in their communities.

“Zoe’s commitment to social justice is present in every class, no matter the considerations of the day,” says Anne

Bluethenthal, core faculty in the MFA programs. “She brings to her interactions that same curiosity, compassion, and rigor that she brings to her work.”

Bender was a theater major at Bard College when she got her first taste of radical politics nearly a decade ago. After Hurricane Katrina, she took a semester off to help with recovery efforts in New Orleans. Bender, who was raised in the Marin County beach community of Bolinas, was shocked to learn just how privileged her own upbringing had been.

“It was so clear that the reason some people were affected more than others by this natural disaster had everything to do with race and class. Having grown up in Bolinas, I had never been exposed to that before,” Bender says. “That was heartbreaking and infuriating.”

Although Bender returned to Bard for one semester after her experience in New Orleans, she knew that she had to move on. “I was way too radicalized at that point. *(continued on next page)*

“While it seems that the city is beyond the point of no return in becoming a completely inhospitable place for poor people, I still think we have the opportunity—or the responsibility—to resist in many ways at many levels.”

“I see what’s happening in the Mid-Market neighborhood and other parts of San Francisco right now—some are calling it hypergentrification—as a logical outcome of free-market capitalism,” Bender says. “While it seems that the city is beyond the point of no return in becoming a completely inhospitable place for poor people, I still think we have the opportunity—or the responsibility—to resist in many ways at many levels.”

Bender is an organizer and activist who is earning her MFA in Creative Inquiry, Interdisciplinary Arts. She is also a mentee at

THE 5TH ANNUAL

Expanding the Circle

LGBTQ Summer Institute at CIIS

JUNE 23–26, 2014

by Dustin N. Smith (CAS '13)

CIIS Public Programs & Performances is delighted to present the 5th annual gathering of *Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies* from June 23 to 26, the week leading up to San Francisco's Pride Celebration.

What began as a conversation among CIIS faculty, staff, and students about how to better serve LGBTQ studies and students has grown into a national platform, where higher education professionals from across the academic spectrum come together for advanced workshops, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities.

At the five-year mark, the Summer Institute is building on four years of progress and meeting the need for greater advocacy and awareness of LGBTQ inclusion, diversity, and social justice in higher education. Race, sexuality, gender, and transgender issues are at the forefront

of conversations around identity and alliance building in student services, as well as cross-disciplinary research and scholarship in academic practice.

The Summer Institute continues to look at intersectionality and intergenerational dynamics in the LGBTQ and ally communities on campus and in larger society toward greater understandings of our global diversity.

Thanks to another underwriting grant from the Small Change Foundation, the Summer Institute welcomes many noted educators and activists to the 2014 faculty, including Robyn Ochs, Shiva Subbaraman, Jamie Washington, and Willy Wilkinson. Sean Cahill, Director of Health Policy Research at the Fenway Institute, will deliver the opening keynote on moving toward LGBTQ equality in public policy.



Expanding the Circle 2013 (from left) Dustin N. Smith, Jamie Washington, and Robyn Ochs.

Ronni Sanlo, noted campus LGBT center director and higher education professor emeritus, will deliver a keynote that weaves together personal narratives of struggle with history of the LGBTQ movement in higher education.

Partnering organizations for a fifth consecutive year include the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, who will host a Western Regional meetup at this year's gathering. Additionally, an interdisciplinary think tank of faculty and administrators will convene to begin the formation of a national LGBTQ Studies Association to further increase visibility for LGBTQ research and scholarship in higher education. ●

It made no sense to stay in a liberal arts learning environment.” She left New York, rejected her arts background, and landed in San Francisco, where she worked as a community organizer. After self-educating for a few years, she discovered CIIS and enrolled in the Bachelor's Degree Completion (BAC) program.

“The professors and the curriculum were so excellent and so politically aligned. They pushed me to think about systems of oppression in new ways, giving me vocabulary for it, and exposing me to thinkers,” says Bender, who graduated from the BAC program in 2011. “It was just fantastic.”

When Bender chose to pursue her MFA, it was not just a return to CIIS, but also a return to her arts background. A confluence

of personal experiences drove her to refocus on art as the center of her life.

Bender, who will graduate from the MFA program in August 2015, believes that CIIS has played an integral role in her growth as a student and as an activist. “I am very skeptical of higher education as an institution,” she says. “I think CIIS is on the forefront of progressive education and is doing something really important. If CIIS didn't exist, I would not be in school, and I think that's true for a lot of the student body.”

Through the opportunities presented by her fellowship, Bender hopes to shine a light on her colleagues at *POOR Magazine*. “The greatest thing that could come out of this (continued on page 27)



ALUMNA BIO: **SHIUYA SARA LIUH**

by Richard Buggs (CLN '96)

Shiuya Sara Liuh (EWP '00) lives in Zurich, Switzerland, where she is a diploma candidate at the International School of Analytic Psychology (ISAP). She was recently in San Francisco to present her lecture “A Psychological Interpretation of the Taoist Concept of the Self: Hun and Po” at the conference Jung & China: Cross-Cultural Fertilization & Contemporary Clinical Practice. Shiuya’s primary research interest is modernity and the Chinese psyche.

“My desire is to connect soul to its roots and early culture—perhaps back as far as 3,000 to 4,000 years, when China was a shamanistic society.”

In 1986, after earning her master’s degree in Patient Education from Arizona State University, Shiuya returned to Taiwan, the place of her birth. She created a patient education program at MaCai Memorial Hospital, where patients learned about their right to know about their illnesses and treatments, and how to advocate for a more active role in their healing process. The mind-body-spirit approach Shiuya introduced was well received by cancer patients and

their families, and the demand for this education grew.

She later established the Shiuh-Li Memorial Foundation to provide workshops and courses aimed at increasing awareness of the role that the mind-body-spirit relationship plays in wellness. The foundation, which has grown to five offices in five different Taiwanese cities, receives government funding grants that enable them to increase services. The offer of training for mental health professionals and experiential workshops for the public was a first for Taiwan.

Shiuya served as the foundation’s director from 1988 to 1993, and also as a family counselor who used art and body-centered techniques to great effect.

DISCOVERING CIIS

In 1993 her search for more meaning in her life and her interest in transpersonal psychology led Shiuya to CIIS. She regarded the Institute as a small liberal school where

there was a “free hippie spirit” in the larger Haight-Ashbury environment. She recalls fondly how the basement café provided a relaxed setting for socializing and feeling like a part of the extended CIIS community. “It was very special and intimate—I really enjoyed that part,” she says. “As well as the teas and dinners hosted by CIIS co-founder Bina Chaudhuri.”

Shiuya chose CIIS because her intention was not just to be “well trained” as a

psychologist. “For that,” she says, “I could have gone anywhere.” Rather, she saw the East-West Psychology (EWP) program as a place where she could question and participate in dialogue about what was happening in the field—a field in which Western perspectives date back to the Greeks. Shiuya reflects that there is not enough focus on the philosophy behind psychology. “Psychology is taught, and it’s a sharp tool, but I had my own doubts about it and how it helps people.”

Shiuya feels fortunate to have studied with EWP Professors Daniel Deslauriers and Larry Spiro, who facilitated rich discussions about these philosophical issues and inclusion of all perspectives and voices.

For her dissertation, Shiuya chose “Soul of China” and researched the revision of modern Chinese self. She completed her doctorate in 2000, then returned to Taiwan to care for her ailing father. Though at times she recalls feeling “isolated, lost, and hiding,” she never gave up her personal work or her desire to reflect upon and integrate whatever came her way.

TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY IN TAIWAN

In Taiwan, Shiuya opened a private practice, which met with immediate success, in part because of her reputation as a formidable teacher of graduate students and her work training counselors, where she introduced transpersonal psychology to Taiwanese students, as well as group dynamics and family therapy. In response to the great interest in the work of Carl Jung, she also began teaching classes on Jungian culture, the arts, and the exploration of creativity and the unconscious. For the next seven years, Shiuya taught at Tungkung University.

Though there is increased interest in counseling *(continued on next page)*

2014 Alumni Award: **ANNE TEICH**

by Richard Buggs (CLN '96)

At the Founders Symposium on April 18, alumna Anne Teich (MA PAR '85, PhD PAR '90) was honored for her myriad contributions to the CIIS community. She took a break from her administrative responsibilities to share a few stories.

When Anne began her studies, the school was called California Institute of Asian Studies and was located in a house at Dolores and 21st Streets. She met Haridas Chaudhuri for the first time in mid-August 1972, at the Palace of Fine Arts, where he was hosting a celebration of Sri Aurobindo's birthday.

Anne remembers what a magnetic personality he had—"always joyful, positive, and loving toward everyone," she recalls. "At the time, it was the 'San Francisco Renaissance,'* and he was truly a Renaissance man."

Anne's academic involvement began with the occasional auditing of classes but changed significantly when her brother introduced her to Rina Sircar. Dr. Sircar had been brought by Dr. Chaudhuri to teach Buddhist Studies, in which Anne earned her MA in 1985, followed by a PhD in Philosophy and Religion in 1990.

"Rina was my primary teacher, and with other students we studied Buddhist texts, and also Pali language, chanting, meditation, and healing." Arriving in 1974, Rina was one of the first Buddhist teachers in the United States to teach mindfulness-insight meditation. As a student and staff person assisting in all her retreats, Anne received the priceless gift of direct transmission from a historically rich tradition.

"Rina also took students with her to Burma and India on several occasions, and we later applied our enthusiasm for meditation by creating in 1985, Taungpulu Kaba-Aye Meditation Center,

a forest monastery in Boulder Creek in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where over the years, many student retreats have been held."

Anne has held several positions as a staff member, including assistant to the president, dean of students, program director for undergraduate studies, and academic affairs manager.

When asked to describe a favorite memory, Anne states that there are too many to name just one—and that they are ongoing. Among her fondest: celebrating the gifts of donors at community gatherings, honoring faculty members, and sharing the company of board members whose expertise and generosity continues to advance CIIS. "And, of course, every single commencement ceremony."

Anne's pride in being an alumna of CIIS stems from watching how the vision of Dr. Chaudhuri has matured over the years. She notes, "Though challenges arise, as they will, the original vision continues to inspire the institution's direction, and we continue to thrive in an atmosphere of creative learning." ●

** A constellation of writers and artists in the San Francisco Bay Area who were active and influential across many genres. They included Gary Snyder, Allen Ginsberg, Madeline Gleason, Jack Spicer, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Michael McClure.*



psychology, there are limited programs offering this training—and very few available slots for students. "I taught counseling psychology at a psychology graduate program, where there were 200 applicants for eight spaces," she says.

Shiuya's desire for in-depth training in Jungian psychology led her to ISAP in

Zurich, where she has spent the past five years researching the Chinese soul. "The concept of soul is core in Jungian psychology and a term in Western psychology, but this is not so in Chinese culture," she says. "My desire is to connect soul to its roots and early culture—perhaps back as far as 3,000 to 4,000 years, when China was a shamanistic society."

This summer, after completing her training program, Shiuya plans to return to Taiwan and continue her work as educator and psychologist. She might also find herself in a new role—"CIIS Ambassador"—meeting with prospective students in Taiwan and China in anticipation of becoming psychology students at CIIS. ●

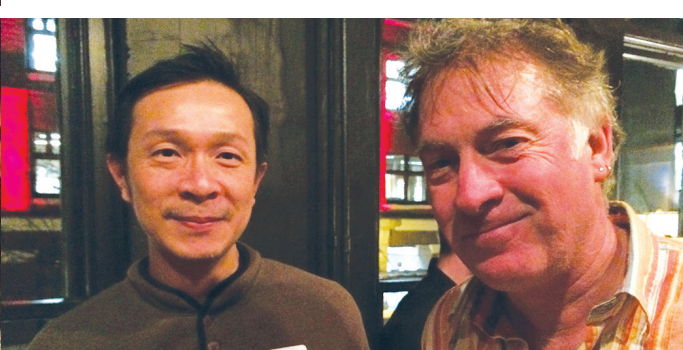


ALUM REUNIONS



New York: Oct. 25, 2013

Ralph White, Director of the Open Center in New York, welcomed CIIS alums and guests at a reunion event on Oct. 25, 2013. President Joseph L. Subbiondo and President Emeritus Robert McDermott engaged in a lively conversation titled “CIIS—Pioneering Spirituality in Higher Education,” and then dialogued with audience members on a wide range of related topics.



Vancouver: Feb. 28, 2014

A gathering of alums living in British Columbia, Canada, was held at the Water Street café in Vancouver on Feb. 28, 2014. Featured speaker Kai-Lin Yang (BAC '03, ICP '06) talked about his integral approach to wellness and his networking strategies for building a successful psychotherapy practice.



(New York) Roseanne Olszewski (TLD '13), Margarita Prensa (ICPW '09), and Catherine Hickey (ICP '08); Donna Schwartz (ICP '92), Elena Hull (EXA '04), and Jennifer Zarin (PDT '06).

(Vancouver) Youki Kato (ICP '06), Catherine Fallis (ISD '02), and Joy Hung (ICP '05); Kai-Lin Yang (BAC '03, ICP '06) and Kevin Parker (ICP '09); Kayla Hochfelder (EXA '09), Brenna Andressen (EXA '14), and Nina Watt (ICP '04).

(Los Angeles) Jane Demente (WSE '01), Debra Voosen (HOT '01), Guest and Sheri Chow (TLC '12), Sara Lederer (CLN '07), Jay Kumar (ACS '11), Maureen Kellen Taylor (TLR '99), and Paris Adkins (CAS '08).

Los Angeles: April 4, 2014

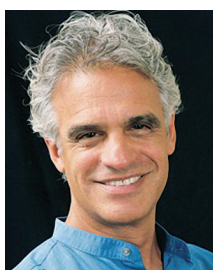
Sideone Dummy Records in Hollywood was the setting for a gathering of Los Angeles-area alum on April 4, 2014. The event featured live music by pianist Joey Garibaldi and a short program featuring Joe Sib, comedian and record label manager, who spoke about family, creativity, and his career in music.

CLASS NOTES



DON SCHWARTZ (ICP '78), an actor and journalist, directed the Trager Institute for 21 years. His acting experience and reels can be found at www.DonSchwartz.com; much of his recent journalistic work can be found at www.CineSourceMagazine.com. Don's first book, *Telling Their Own Stories: Conversations with Documentary*

Filmmakers, was published in July 2013 and is available at <http://www.amazon.com/Telling-Their-Own-Stories-ebook/dp/BooEA8Z2JW>.



VAN METAXAS (ICP '92) has written *Conspiring to Heal: A Love Story*, which was released in conjunction with the launch of his website www.ConspiringToHeal.com. His memoir is being called a spiritual call to arms about living from the heart. It is the culmination of years of work to distill his family's experience of living in the wake

of a terminal illness diagnosis. Van is a licensed therapist who specializes in working with men who long to relate more deeply to themselves, their partners, and their children; and with couples who desire to rekindle the love and goodwill that brought them together.

CEIL GRUERING (ACS '00) has published *Sanghita's*, six plays that use the feminine psyche to interpret or reinterpret. Chapters in the visually beautiful and well-constructed book include, "Sacred Journey—the Eleusinian Mysteries," "St. Cecilia's Circle of Lost Souls," and "The Muses, and the Maenads—Grace & Fury." The themes touch on Latin America, Ancient Sumeria, India, the Balkans, Greece, Spain, France, and the United States. Ceil, who has an undergraduate degree in dance, has worked as a trilingual choreographer, director, and dance instructor worldwide. She recently returned from living in Honduras and now resides in Richmond, Virginia, where she continues to teach and provide workshops.



COSMIN GHEORGHE (PDT '03) left Romania 14 years ago to study at CIIS. His work focuses on offering intercultural and multicultural expertise to organizations and individuals around the world. He is a certified Cultural Intelligence Facilitator and collaborates with the Cultural Intelligence Center.



SUSANNE GALLO (CLN '04) works as a clinical psychologist at a psychiatric hospital with the California Department of Corrections. She is passionate about running, yoga, meditation, nutrition, aromatherapy, herbs, traveling to Indonesia and Southeast Asia, and going to local festivals and dance performances. She lives in Oakland.



PENNY ROSENWASSER (TLR '05) is the author of *Visionary Voices*, *Women on Power*, and most recently, *Voices from a "Promised Land": Palestinian & Israeli Peace Activists Speak Their Hearts*. She is former Jewish Caucus Chair of the National Women's Studies Association and also a founding board member of Jewish Voice for

Peace. Penny teaches at City College of San Francisco and is a member of Kehilla Synagogue. Her new book is available at AKPress.org, Amazon.com, and the InnerLight Bookstore at CIIS.

LEORA FULVIO (ICP '06) has written *Reclaiming Yourself from Binge Eating: A Step-by-Step Guide to Healing*, a mind, body, and spirit approach to healing from binge eating and bulimia issues. Geared toward therapists working with clients who are struggling with binge eating, this step-by-step guide can be used within a group setting or in individual therapy.

ALI GUIDA SMITH (EXA '07) is a Clinical Intervention Specialist for Seneca Family of Agencies, an organization that provides community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families. Ali has consulted, taught, or worked as a psychotherapist and workshop facilitator/presenter in the United States, Indonesia, Thailand, and Europe.



VANISSAR TARAKALI (EWP '07) is a somatic educator and intuitive who coaches healers and change-makers to collaborate wisely with the body to heal trauma and sustain social change. As Program Director at DiversityWorks, Vanissar passionately practices generative somatics, intuitive reading, energy bodywork, and Tibetan

Buddhism. Her YouTube channel is dedicated to somatic healing practices. www.vanissar.com

CLASS NOTES



MELINDA DOUGLAS (CLN '10) co-facilitated a workshop at the Spiritual Life Center for couples who are preparing for marriage or wanting to enrich their marriage. Melinda practices in the Financial District and Pacific Heights neighborhoods of San Francisco. www.drmelindadouglas.com

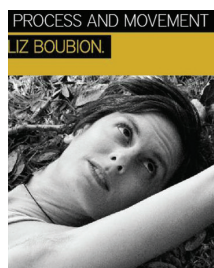


CHARLES FLORES (EWP '10) is the Assistant Director at East Bay Community Recovery Project (EBCRP) in Oakland. He has opened a private practice in Oakland and Alameda, where he focuses on problems of addictions, including prescription and nonprescription drugs, Internet, gambling, and work. A native of the South Bronx, Charles has experience working with people from many backgrounds.



LILY SLOANE (ICP '10) integrates therapy with science, creativity, and intuition. She has a new blog entry on her website about being seen, an article that Lily believes touches on an experience common to many people. www.lilysloane.com/blog.html

TERI K. STRONG (PCC '10) was a featured speaker at the 2014 Epilepsy Symposium with the Kansas University School of Medicine and Kansas/Missouri Epilepsy Foundation. Her presentation discussed neuroplasticity, neurogenesis, neuropsychological issues, and consciousness in epilepsy patients. Her work has been published in the journal *Epilepsia*. A leading academic in the area of epilepsy research, Teri is a returning speaker with the University of Kansas School of Medicine Physicians and Psychologists. She is a former Miss Indiana and the author of *Reaching for the Crown*.



LIZ BOUBION (CIA '11), the Artistic Director of the Piñata Dance Collective, has been accepted to a month-long artist residency, 360 XOCHI QUETZAL, in Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico. The program's mission is to support artists, writers, and musicians who would benefit from having uninterrupted time to devote to their creativity. www.lizboubion.org



SANJAY KUMAR (ACS '11) is an adjunct professor of Comparative Religion, Yoga Philosophy, Global Healing Traditions, and Neurocognitive Studies at Chapman University and Loyola Marymount University. His Chapman University course, Happiness: Exploring Its Spiritual and Rational Foundations, is available on iTunes University. Jay is also a certified yoga and meditation instructor, motivational speaker, author, and weekly contributor on national radio. He recently published the e-book *Brain, Bod & Being: Five Secrets for Achieving Authentic Health & Happiness*. www.drjaykumar.com

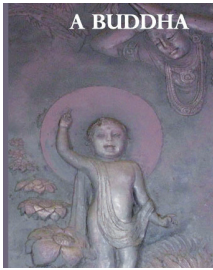


JULIE L'ESPERANCE (PSY '11) specializes in psychodynamic and Jungian psychotherapy, and East-West healing modalities. At CIIS, Julie served as program coordinator of the Clinical Psychology program and has been an intern at the C.G. Jung Institute. Currently she directs the psychotherapy and care management program at Alternative to Meds Center (ATMC) in Sedona, Arizona, and teaches a group on Mindfulness and Vipassana Meditation. ATMC is a licensed holistic residential treatment center and authority on the biochemical correction of addiction and alternatives to psychiatric drugs. Julie has an avid passion and interest in Chinese culture, spirituality, and healing.



KUNAL SOOD (ICP '11) serves as the Associate Dean at Woxen School of Business and the curator of TEDxUNPlaza. He has been an executive producer and global health professional specializing in digital media, and the health and wellness industry. Kunal also holds a Master's of Science in Global Sciences degree from U.C. San Francisco, and an MBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a fellow at the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University, and is also completing his MPhil in Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania.

CLASS NOTES



METTEYYA BRAHMANA (ACS '13), who lives in Sri Lanka, recently published his first book, *Why God Became a Buddha* (Anagami Publishing, 2013). The book explores Buddhist cosmology and its relationship to the lives of human beings. Metteyya has been a serious meditator, student, and practitioner of Buddhism for nearly 15 years. Because of the profound effect that Buddhism has had on his life, Metteyya decided to pursue graduate-level Buddhist and Pali language studies, which provided much of the research for his new book.



AILEEN CHO (PDT '13) recently presented at the Korean American Psychological Association (KAPA) on the subject of experiential drama therapy. *The Korea Times* and *JoongAng Daily* interviewed Aileen about the 2014 KAPA Conference. Aileen lives in Southern California, where she serves the Korean

community. www.aileenbcho.com



JACQUELYN GALBREATH (EWP '13) is the Manager of Advocacy and Resources, and Coordinator of the Ticket to Work program for Hope Services in the South Bay. Jacquelyn provides advocacy for approximately 3,000 participants in seven counties who receive work and residential programming.



CHIP MCAULEY (TSD '13) has created a new magazine, *Culture Counter Magazine* (where culture counts), <http://culturecountermag.com/>. It offers cultural writing on issues that stretch across the spectrum in essay, poetry, short story, interview, and article form. The magazine features essays by many

CIIS alumni and greatly encourages new contributions from CIIS alums and students.



DUSTIN N. SMITH (CAS '13) is the former special events coordinator for CIIS Public Programs & Performances and serves as the lead program consultant for the University's Expanding the Circle 2014 Summer Institute. Dustin is currently the Program Manager for

Undergraduate Fine Arts at California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Oakland, where he oversees academic affairs for the Community Arts, Individualized Major, Photography, and Printmaking programs. He is a member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network—San Francisco Bay Area and volunteers on the screening committee for Frameline: The San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival.

ANDREA VECCHIONE (ACS '13) teaches environmental science at the Green School in Bali, Indonesia. The Green School, named "2012 Greenest School on Earth" by the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools, focuses on natural, holistic, and student-centered education. Andrea is also working with the school to develop a new university in Bali, founded on the same educational principles.



PHOENIX SONG (EXA '14) has opened an expressive arts therapy private practice internship under the supervision of **Therese Bogan** (ICP '05). Phoenix specializes in supporting those who have experienced sexual trauma, including covert and overt childhood sexual abuse, sexual

assault, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of abuse, neglect, trauma, vicarious trauma, and oppression. Phoenix also has a focus working with clients who identify with LGBTQI, kink/BDSM, poly, and/or sex-worker communities. Her website is phoenixsongtherapy.com.

GROUNDLED

(continued from page 5)

express CIIS's commitment to sustainability," he says. Phase 2 converts the sixth floor into a multiuse Community Space. This complements the venerated Namaste Hall as a venue for the more intimate events such as lectures, symposia, yoga, parties, and fundraisers. The new space, approximately 4,000 square feet, will be available to all departments and student groups—and can serve as a space for town hall meetings.

Cost: \$650,000

A PENTHOUSE JEWEL BOX

The penthouse floor was originally designed as a sunroom and lunch space for the Gantner-Mattern Co. knitting mill almost 100 years ago. It's one-quarter the size of the other floors.

"The new space represents a return to the original design intent of the floor and an opportunity to have a space that is representative of the openness and intimacy of our community," says Mills.

"The sunlit windows, two Zen rooftop decks, and very few walls will ensure that breadth and intimacy," he says.

This adaptive and dynamic Community Space, and a culturally and materially rich ground-floor entry, are bookends on an emergent CIIS. In its 46 years, the University has been housed at different sites across San Francisco; the three-phase transformation of 1453 Mission Street marks a commitment to this site.

Fortifying existing community outreach and engagement efforts, the street-level transformation establishes CIIS as a significant partner in the city's most important dialogues well into the future.

Plans are in place for construction to begin in July. "The timing couldn't be better," says Cich.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

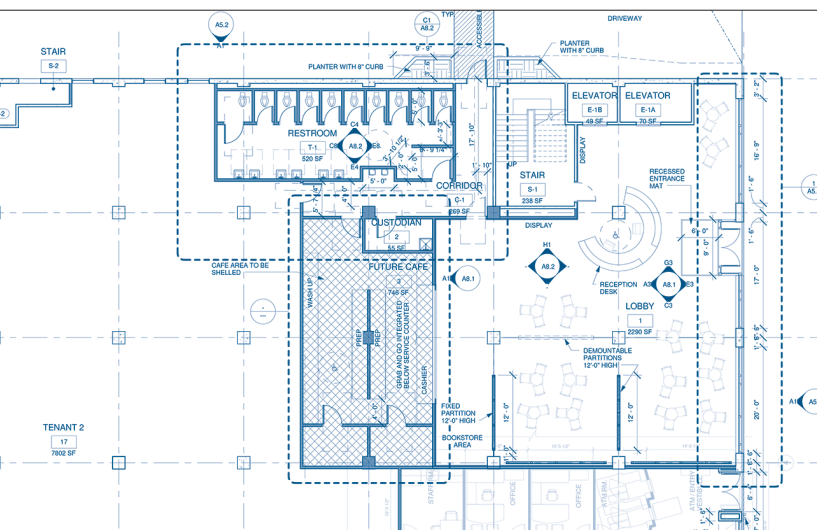
In the last two years, according to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, roughly 18 new companies have moved within a three-block radius of CIIS. Twitter, the most prominent, signed a lease that runs through 2021.

"We've tailored part of our community outreach toward engaging the youthful, high-tech demographic," says Julie Pofsky, Associate Director of Development. "We want them to understand CIIS as their neighborhood place for intellectual and spiritual growth—as a place that can also help individuals and companies reduce stress and burnout," she says.

Under way are new courses and workshops, and concomitantly, solicitations for support on projects such as our recent mental health-themed hackathons.*

Says Pofsky, "Perhaps they'll come in for a great cup of coffee and come out with a degree." ●

**Please see "Hackathon for Mental Health," on page 10.*



had given title to the evening's lecture.

This is the best-case scenario of academia: helping us to understand ourselves in the context of the world. A pedagogy of survival, of imagining possibilities for a fully embodied life, of coming together in shared struggle for mutual survival. Dealing openly with variations in life experience and context as we dialogue across those differences in the service of each other and an expanded community. What we hope for is an academia that holds in its heart the belief that a pursuit of a just world is not in conflict with deep inquiry.

This is the best of what academia can offer. And this is what CIIS endeavors toward and wrestles with at every level—in department meetings and classes and the services offered by the counseling centers, and in the role of the University in the shifting landscape of San Francisco.

The Q&A portion of the night, moderated by Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs, allowed Cox the opportunity to talk more about her documentary about CeCe McDonald and the prison industrial complex, the criminalization of trans women sex workers, and the problematic assumptions driving the anti-condom-carrying policies: that all trans women are sex workers.

Buggs was then handed a question passed down from the audience that read:

I'm 6 and I get bullied. Since I get teased at school, I go to the bathroom in the office. What can I say to the kids who tease me?

You could hear the collective deep breath in the theater. Cox walked to the edge of the stage and called out the child's name, squinting, looking out into the audience for the child. She motioned for the house lights to be

raised. "Where are you? Come down here, honey, I'll wait."

The 6-year-old and family came down to the stage. So many of us in the audience were weeping. Cox looked into the child's eyes and said, "You're perfect just the way you are. I was bullied and called names, too. And now I'm a big TV star. Know that you are amazing and that you are chosen."

THE AFTER-PARTY

The small restaurant was packed with people wanting Cox's attention. She sat on a back-corner couch talking quietly with Jewlyes Gutierrez, a transgender 16-year-old who had been charged with battery after a fight broke out in her high school. Though Jewlyes suffered long-term bullying and, like McDonald, was defending herself, charges were not brought against her attackers.

Cox, despite a nonstop tour schedule and a looming 3 a.m. wake-up call, stayed for hours wanting to talk to everyone, not leaving anyone out.

"Tonight I'm the luckiest man on the planet," said Richard Buggs. "She's so lovely, so generous. Her ability to make use of suffering and the human condition in service of others is just so amazing."

The crowd, amoeba-like, leaned and pushed against one another, trying to get to Cox. CIIS Communications Director James Martin and I were trying to filter the crowd, titrate its movements so Cox wasn't too overwhelmed or overheated in the small space. Martin and I urged people to make space so that Miss Major, who uses a cane, could be led to Cox. But in their excitement, people weren't listening.

"Want me to help?" asked Q Wilson, a long-time activist and Bay Area sex educator. We nodded.

Q's trans masculine, broad-shouldered, bleached-Mohawk African American frame carved a space through the crowd. On Q's orders, everyone moved back, and

Miss Major and the trans women helping her easily made their way to Cox.

We couldn't hear what Cox and Miss Major were saying to each other. They were looking into each other's eyes, close to tears, holding hands. Their presence in each other's company is evidence of so much resistance and fierce survival. Jewlyes Gutierrez was nearby. So many generations of ferocity and kindness and possibility in the room.

I remembered something Cox wrote in *The Advocate* about gendered black bodies and public space: "When I was perceived as a black man, I became a threat to public safety. When I was dressed as myself, it was my safety that was threatened."

"Hey, Q," I said.

"Yeah?"

"What are you gonna do when people stop being afraid of you?"

Q grinned and straightened his bowtie. "Won't that be a fun problem?"

I thought back to where Cox had started her talk a few hours earlier, invoking Cornel West. *Justice is what love looks like in public*. The lingering question may be whether love of Laverne Cox, as a performer, as a speaker and thinker, as a performative witness of the communities in which and with which she participates, will keep propelling people into dialogue and toward working for justice. ●

Keiko Lane, MA, MFT, is a psychotherapist in private practice in Berkeley. A clinical supervisor at the Center for Somatic Psychotherapy and former faculty member in the Somatic Psychology program, she is a writer and frequent lecturer on queer and multicultural psychotherapies, the psychodynamics of social justice, and embodied resistance to oppression. She chaired the 2008 Queer Bodies in Psychotherapy Conference.

the Visiting Committee, he established the James C. Hormel Public Service scholarship program to encourage law students to go into public service. In addition, he supported the creation of a gender studies program in the general college. At CIIS, James' Small Change Foundation has been the leading local foundation to support the University's Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies conferences and summer institutes. That support has been steadfast since 2010.

AMBASSADOR HORMEL

James has been widely recognized and honored for his philanthropic work and positions of service on boards that include People For the American Way, The Commonwealth Club of California, Grace Cathedral, and the San Francisco Symphony, and as Trustee Emeritus of the San Francisco Foundation. Perhaps he is best known as the first openly gay U.S. ambassador.

expect some sort of nomination? That didn't seem right. But as I thought it over, I realized I might have the opportunity to open some eyes, particularly if the post required Senate confirmation. That would force one hundred senators, and possibly the whole American public, to

consider the experience of a gay man in America. If I succeeded, I would break a ceiling and would make it easier for gay people to serve at the highest levels of government. That would be a big deal.

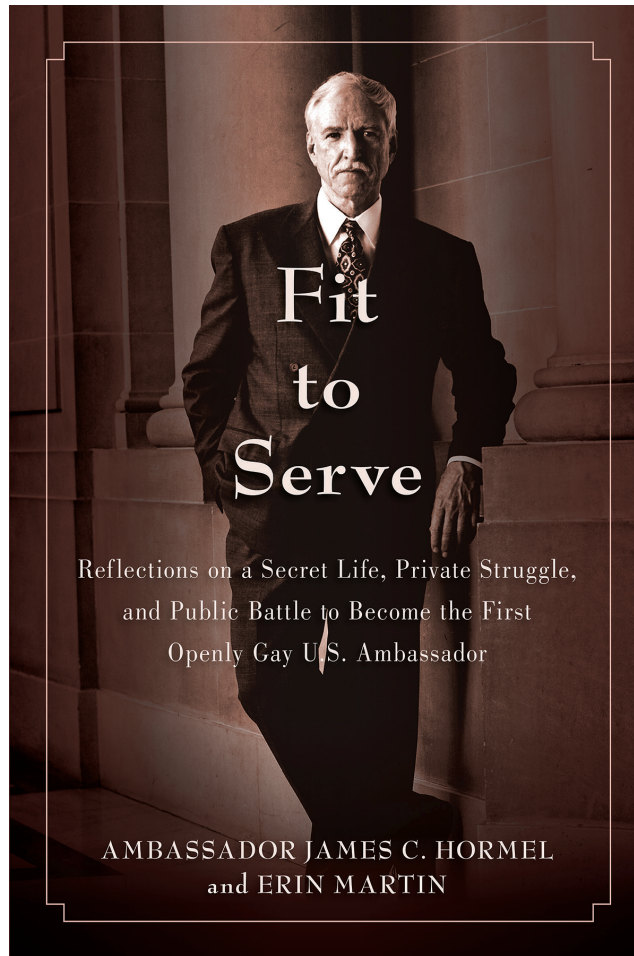
After a vicious seven-year battle that included outrageously ugly attacks from far right activists such as Senator Jesse Helms and evangelical demagogue Pat Robertson, James was appointed ambassador to Luxembourg in June 1999. He served in that capacity through December 2000.

James has held other distinguished public service positions, including being a participant in the President's Conference on the Pacific Rim, an alternate representative of the U.S. delegation to the 51st United Nations General Assembly in 1996, and a

member of the U.S. delegation to the 51st U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. That same year, he was a member of San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown's Economic Summit.

At Commencement this May, CIIS awarded James the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in Human Rights and Social Justice, with special recognition of his significant contributions to the nationwide struggle for marriage equality. An early advocate in this fight, James supported efforts in Hawaii in 1993 and Massachusetts in 2004. In the battle against California's Prop. 8, James was the single largest contributor to the effort to defeat the proposition.

CIIS is extremely proud to have the opportunity to honor such a genuine and generous humanitarian who transformed his own sense of difference into a lifetime's work directed to eliminating the suffering that accompanies all forms of inequality. ●



In the battle against California's Prop. 8, James was the single largest contributor to the effort to defeat the proposition.

A long-time supporter of the Democratic Party, James was approached by a member of presidential candidate Bill Clinton's team suggesting that he seek an appointment. James' writing in *Fit to Serve* about this is instructive as to his character and his great skill as a strategic leader:

I found the idea immodest. Who was I to ask for this? Just because I had donated money to the campaign, I should

LATA KRISHNAN

(continued from page 14)

have played a role in various areas of development as far as education is concerned or working with communities. What's unique about our organization is the number of people in management who have both the business experience, and the empathy and compassion to really want to do something of value. Because we have a very strong desire on one hand, and some business background on the other, most of us are trying to combine the two to see if we can find a way to make both work and then fill in our own gaps of underserved areas with the right components from the outside world.

Each of us is working in a small community and trying to listen more to the communities and see what it is that they really want. It is impossible for someone from the Bay Area to fully understand the needs of a village in India. We need to hear and understand from them what they think they need, and then put different capabilities in front of them and say, "Can this be helpful to you?" If it is, and that model can be proved, then we can find a way to scale it and talk to other partners.

This way of thinking has to stem from a sense of empathy that you want to be part of this equation—of this program, of this project, of this community. And then you have to find the right skill sets to make it work.

In the last 12 years, we've been able to positively impact over 1.9 million people in some form or fashion of education, of livelihood, or health. It sounds like a big number, but unfortunately in India it is still very small.

Much of your work endeavors to empower women. Why?

I have been very fortunate. I have some very amazing men around me, all the way from my dad to my husband to my son—not to mention the women in my life, my daughter and my mother. But a lot of women don't. I think the men in our lives play a huge role and take a great responsibility for shaping their daughters and their wives. I feel that for those who don't have that, if I can play a small part in helping them build some confidence, get an education, or get a job, I would be so privileged to take on that role.

In India, girls have 65 percent illiteracy rates, and over 70 percent of girls are married off in adolescence. The statistics are still fairly grim despite the many women who have emerged in the corporate sector as leaders. There's a lot more to do. All of our programs in India are very much focused on the girl child. That's really the way to success for a community. As Gandhi said, "When you educate a woman, you educate a whole family." I think that is still the greatest injustice, and that is where all of us from the nonprofit community should be putting our efforts.

What would you say are some of your philanthropy "best practices"?

I don't think our fulfillment comes from having a building or from some immediate end product. It's really how I feel about my children. As a mother, my job is to expose my children to as many new and interesting things for them to choose from, and to let them fly. And whatever choices they make, to whatever extent they need or want the help, it's their life, and they need to figure out what they want to do with their time and their resources.

Similarly with the nonprofit world, anytime we can put a program in place that really helps a community figure out how to do that, I feel is the best way forward. Usually people know what to do; they just don't have the tools necessary at that time.

Your philanthropy bridges many worlds and touches so many people. What particularly drives you?

If I can be an inspiration to anyone—particularly women—to step outside their comfort zone and feel like they want to be a change maker in some area of their life or someone else's life, I would have thought myself a success.

Bonus question: If you had a different job, what would it be?

If I were younger, I probably would have wanted to become a dancer. ●

ZOE BENDER

(continued from page 17)

award for me would be to highlight the work that *POOR Magazine* is doing. They are so radical; they have so much integrity."

As for the ways in which people can take action against hyper-gentrification, Bender has several suggestions: Make informed

and deliberate choices as a consumer about where to spend money, become educated about local government processes, treat all people with respect and dignity, and cultivate the skill of deep listening.

"Capitalism is ideologically based on competition and individualism," she says. "So I see the antidote being cooperation and interdependence." ●



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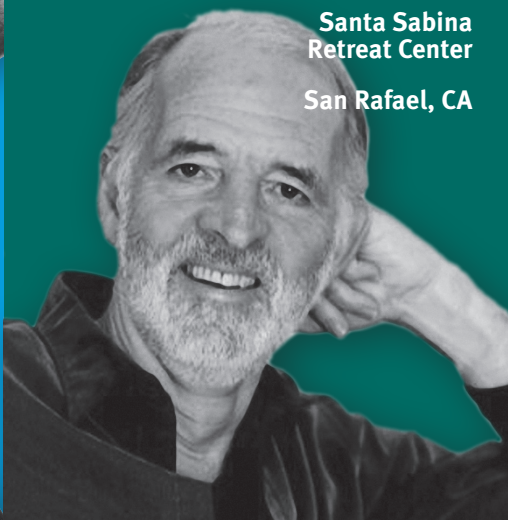
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